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### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

$\beta_2$ -microglobulin fusion proteins and modified forms of  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin are disclosed. The fusion proteins are shown to incorporate onto the surface of MHC I  
5 expressing mammalian cells and to cause an increased cytotoxic T-cell response to antigens presented by such cells. The fusion proteins are useful in methods of tumor therapy. Modified forms of human  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin, particularly a form having a serine to valine transition at amino acid position 55 of the mature protein are shown to have an enhanced affinity for MHC I heavy chain, and are useful both in the disclosed  
10 fusion proteins and as a vaccine adjuvant where enhanced cytotoxic T-cell response is desired.